

# Mental Health in Dixie Schools Act

A bill to be entitled  
An Act to Provide Mental Health Classes in Dixie  
Schools.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Dixie:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. WHEREAS, the percentage of young Americans experiencing mental health disorders has skyrocketed over the last decade. WHEREAS, 21.4% of children ages 13-18 and 13% of children ages 8-15 live with a severe mental disorder. WHEREAS, half of all mental disorders begin by age 14 and go undetected and untreated. WHEREAS, schools health programs repeatedly emphasize the importance of physical health including eating healthy, avoiding drugs and exercise and neglect resources and strategies to help students cope with their difficulties. WHEREAS, being healthy, emotionally, can lead to increased productivity in work and school. WHEREAS, mental health is important in building social relationships as well as adapting to changes and challenges students face in everyday life.

Section 2. Short title.—This act may be cited as the “Mental Health in Dixie Schools Act”

Section 3. The Dixie Department of Education is ordered to enact the following.

Section 4. All schools in the state that house students in grades 7th-12th will implement a mental health unit as part of the curriculum.

- (A) Students will be required to complete the equivalent of at least 1 semester each year.

- (B) The State Board of Education will set the guidelines for this program
- (C) If a school already has a health education class in place, the mental health course will be implemented into this course

Section 5. Teachers will be required to attend a 10 hour training class on mental health management in order to be familiar with this mental health policy.

- (A) Teachers will learn about the different types of mental disorders and signs to recognize students who experience or who are at risk for a mental disorder
- (B) Teachers will be coached to learn how to help and address students suffering from a mental disorder.

Section 6. There will be a mandatory six month progress review to be submitted to the Department of Education for each school.

- (A) There will be a required national baseline test on beginning and completing this course.

Section 7. This act shall take effect at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

**Sponsor:** /u/Trippliyons18(Dx-2)